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PROTEST: Making their views felt outside Asford Police Station were these protesters who want to save the Hor Horse fair. From the left are Gratton Puxton, Eli Frankham, Jake Bowers and Edwin Frankham

Gipsies will continue with horse fair despite cancellation

Parade will go ahead

By Kate Murrell

VILLAGERS Horsmonden are resigning themselves to the fact that gipsies and traveller this month despite the annual horse fair being cancelled.

Although the parish council has refused to allow the traditional fair to be held on the green, the gipsies are to go ahead with a parade of up to 200 people through the village.

Joan Quail, who works at Crowhurst Stores, said: "I have no problem with the parade." Villager David Tuck added, "I don't mind as long as they clear up afterwards."

However, some residents do share the same view.

The Courier was also told by villager "it is potential for trouble." Another said there was "enormous

noise after the fair" The parade is planned for Sunday September 10 as an alternative to the horse fair

On Tuesday representatives from the Gypsy Council, the Romany Fair Association and the borough council met in police to discuss the event.

Great step forward

Granian Puxton, chairman of the Gypsy Council, said: "This is a great step forward and highlights the strong feelings Romany families in the community have to save the fair"

Among the topics discussed were the number of people taking part in the parade, between 100 and 200, the route and placard.

The parade is due to start at 12 noon in Breachley and led by a horse-drawn car-

riage, and go through the village and around the green.

Romany families are planning to revive the fair next year on land not owned by the parish council and would ultimately like to buy land for a smaller fair without stalls.

Mr Puxton added: "Our next steps are to arrange off-street parking and also a public meeting after the parade, where consultation with the parish council can take place.

Neil Robins, chairman of the parish council, said the parade was a police matter and he had "no real comment to make".

Romany Suzanne Hersey, 37, from Breachley Road, said: "The closure of the fair is sickening.

"We don't want rioting, we just want to keep the campaign within the law. What else can we do to show how we all feel other than parade?"